

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

MINUTES of a meeting of the Cabinet held in the Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Monday, 1 June 2015.

PRESENT: Mr P B Carter, CBE (Chairman), Mr M A C Balfour, Mr G Cooke, Mr M C Dance, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R W Gough, Mr P M Hill, OBE, Mr P J Oakford, Mr J D Simmonds, MBE and Mr B J Sweetland

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs A Beer (Corporate Director Engagement, Organisation Design & Development), Mr D Cockburn (Corporate Director Strategic & Corporate Services), Mr A Ireland (Corporate Director Social Care, Health and Wellbeing), Mr P Leeson (Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education), Mr A Scott-Clark (Director of Public Health), Mr A Wood (Corporate Director of Finance), Ms D Fitch (Democratic Services Manager (Council)) and Mr P Sass (Head of Democratic Services)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

115. Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 April 2015

(Item 4)

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Chairman.

116. Libraries Registration and Archives Transformation

(Item 5 - Ms A Slaven, Head of Libraries and Archives, and Mr J Pearson, Service Improvement Programme Manager, were present for this item.)

- (1) Cabinet received a report which highlighted the findings of the recent consultation and parallel work streams into a proposed delivery model of a charitable trust for the Libraries, Registration and Archives (LRA) service.
- (2) Mr Hill, Cabinet Member for Community Services, introduced the report and in particular he referred to the following:
 - The public consultation on the preferred option of future service delivery by a charitable trust, which included the consideration of a petition.
 - He confirmed that there was no intention to reduce services and that the County Council would retain statutory responsibility for these services.
 - There had been discussions with the General Registration Office (GRO) in relation to externalisation of the registration service and officers had been advised that this would require new primary legislation.
 - The option of splitting the libraries/archives service from the registration service had been considered but it had been concluded that this would not be the most efficient way forward as it would impact adversely upon staff moral and would affect the stability of all three services.
 - Now that the new government was in place, conversations were taking place with the GRO in relation to introducing new primary legislation as soon as possible and for Kent to be granted early pilot status.

- Therefore it was proposed that the Libraries, Archives and Registration service be kept in house while work to facilitate the externalisation of the registration service continued.

(3) It was RESOLVED that

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1.	The service be retained in-house until such time as the Registration Service can be externalised and form part of an integrated Libraries, Registration & Archives trust. At that time a new decision would be required.
2.	That in parallel the in-house service be internally commissioned against an agreed specification and deliver the required Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) savings.
3	That KCC will push for the necessary legislative change which will enable the full benefits of an integrated Libraries, Registration & Archives service in an externalised model to be realised.
REASON	
1.	The outcome of recent discussions with the GRO, which had led to the proposal to agree to the principle of a trust model to be implemented when the legislative framework allow the full LRA service to transfer to a Trust. This later transfer would be subject to a future decision. Meanwhile, the in house service will be internally commissioned to transform and to deliver an outcomes focused service governed by a specification and the MTFP savings.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED	None
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	None
DISPENSATIONS GRANTED	None

117. Young Persons Travel Pass - Pricing 2015 / 2016

(Item 6 - Mr P Lightowler, Head of Public Transport, was present for this item.)

- (1) Cabinet received a report on the Young Persons Travel Pass (YPTP), KCC's discretionary scheme which provides subsidised bus travel for Kent students in years 7 to 11. The report outlined the scheme, the background to the budget pressure and proposed a reduction in the level of subsidy to mitigate the financial pressure.
- (2) Mr Balfour, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, introduced the report and stated that it gave him no pleasure to have to propose these

changes to the scheme but these were necessary due to the budget position. He reminded the Cabinet that this was still a generous home to school transport scheme for children provided by the tax payers of Kent.

(3) The Leader referred to the £1.4m overspend and acknowledged that this was a valuable service which gave parents a greater potential choice of schools for their children.

(4) Mr Lightowler drew the Cabinet's attention to the following:

- When the scheme was changed from the Kent Freedom Pass to the YPTP, and the opportunity provided to pay for the pass half-yearly, there was an expectation that the numbers using the scheme would reduce but this had not been the case. This had led to a budget pressure of £1.4m.
- He stated that there was a public misunderstanding re the YPTP. The cost to the user was not the cost to the County Council. In 2014/15 each pass cost the County Council an average of £588, Even with the proposed increase the YPTP represented good value for money for parents especially as the major bus companies normally charged children travelling before 9.00am the full adult fare.

(5) The Leader suggested that consideration might be given to providing the facility to pay for the YPTP on a termly (three times a year) basis which might lead to a reduction in the number of passes for term 3 due to study leave. Mr Lightowler explained that due to the administrative processes that would be required to make this change, it would not be practical to introduce this in 2015/16 but that it would be considered for 2016/17

(6) Mr Balfour stated that he had discussed with officers how the scheme could be made more efficient, effective and better value for money. An additional suggestion that he would like to put forward was that families with more than two children eligible for the YPTP should have passes for the third and subsequent children free of charge.

(7) It was RESOLVED that

CABINET	
1 June 2015	
1.	A reduction in subsidy of £50 to the YPTP full cost pass, raising the price to the user by £50 for September 2015 be approved.
2.	The price of low income YPTP at £100 be maintained.
3.	The current arrangement for carers and those in local authority care to receive a free pass be maintained.
4.	On an annual basis, the cost of the standard pass will increase in line with operator fare increases and will be capped at 5% of the gross cost of the scheme divided by the number of standard passes in circulation.

5.	All current YPTP terms and conditions for users be retained.
6.	Families with more than 2 children eligible for the YPTP to only pay for two passes and therefore the pass(s) for the third and subsequent children be issued free of charge.
REASON	
1.	The Young Persons Travel Pass (YPTP) is a discretionary scheme, providing subsidised bus travel for Kent students in years 7 to 11. For 2015/16 its budget is £8,840,500 net, with £4,596,000 income. Due to increasing demand, the scheme is facing a budget deficit of some £1.4m in 2015/16
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED	None.
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	None.
DISPENSATIONS GRANTED	None.

118. 2014 / 2015 Budget Monitoring - Provisional Outturn Report
(Item 7)

(1) Cabinet received a report detailing the provisional outturn for 2014 – 15 provided from the accounting system and expected to be very close to the final outturn. Any amendments would be as a result of internal management reviews and external audit findings. The final outturn report would be presented to Cabinet on 6 July 2015 and would provide further detail behind this very satisfactory outcome against a very challenging budget.

(2) The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement introduced the report to Cabinet. He referred to the net underspend of just under £6m and paid tribute to the way in which Directors had managed their budgets.

(3) It was RESOLVED that

CABINET	
1 June 2015	
1.	That the provisional outturn for revenue and capital for 2014/15 as detailed in the report be noted.
REASON	
1.	In order that Cabinet can effectively carry out monitoring requirements.

2	In order that the budget accurately reflects the real time position and is fit for purpose enabling necessary actions to be taken.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED	None.
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	None.
DISPENSATIONS GRANTED	None.

119. Performance Monitoring - Quarter 4 - 2014-15

(Item 8 - Mr R Fitzgerald, Performance Manager, Business Intelligence, was present for this item).

- (1) Cabinet received a report detailing the key areas of performance for the authority at Quarter 4 of 2014/15.
- (2) Mr Fitzgerald stated that these were a good positive set of performance indicators which had been achieved despite the challenging budget situation. He highlighted the following
 - In Customer Services – the number of calls answered by Contact Point was above target and there had been a decline in the number of calls handled as digital contact improved.
 - There was good news in relation to the key economic indicators which were back to pre-recession levels
 - The Regeneration Growth Fund, including Expansion East Kent and TIGER had created or safeguarded over 5600 jobs.
 - In relation to highways there had been an improvement in routine repairs performance over the quarter.
 - In waste management there had been a further improvement in the reduction of waste to landfill.
 - In education there had been an increase in the percentage of schools achieving good or outstanding Ofsted results.
 - There had been a dip in the percentage of SEN statements during this quarter but this was the end of the current process. In future the new Education and Social Care Plans would be reported instead which were on target.
 - There had been a slight increase in the number of 16 – 18 year olds who were not in education or training (NEETS), however, this position was an improvement on the same period last year.
 - The provisional start date for apprenticeships in the current academic year had shown an improvement.
 - In the Early Years and Preventative Service there had been a further increase in the number of families with an Integrated Team Around the Family Approach, 81% of cases had been closed with outcomes achieved. This had had a positive impact on children’s social care with a decrease in the number of Children in Need cases.
 - There had been further improvements in the number of social workers in permanent posts. There had also been a continued improvement in the quality of case files audited.

- In relation to Corporate Parenting, there had been a decrease in the number of Children in Care, although there had been an increase in the number of asylum seeking children needing support.
- In Adult Social Care there had been improvements in the number of clients supported with Telecare and a steady improvement in the number of clients receiving enablement to remain independent. As a consequence permanent residential care admissions for older people had shown a reduction.
- In Public Health the NHS health check programme was ahead of target.

(3) In response to a question from the Leader, Mr Leeson explained that a target approach had been adopted in relation to Early Years provision. There had been input into those setting which were not good and also there was monitoring of all setting including those that were good in order to identify any decline and provide support at an early stage. He confirmed that private providers in Kent, which accounted for 95% of the Early Years provision, welcomed KCC's involvement.

(4) Mr Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform, emphasised that in relation to primary school performance there had been a rapid acceleration and strong progress, with an increase in the number of schools going from category to good.

(5) It was RESOLVED that

CABINET	
1 June 2015	
1.	That the positive quarterly performance information be noted.
REASON	
1.	In order that Cabinet conduct its monitoring activities effectively
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED	None.
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	None.
DISPENSATIONS GRANTED	None.